

**Maine EMS Examination Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 18, 2004
Maine EMS Conference Room, Augusta**

Minutes

Present: J. Vaniotis – Chair, T. Coleman, J. LeBrun – via videoconference, G. Utgard, K. Roderick

Absent: R. Doughty, D. Gilman, B. Hawkes, T. Norsworthy

Staff: D. White

D. White reported that D. Gilman, B. Hawkes & T. Norsworthy notified him prior to the meeting that they would not be attending.

1. Call To Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

A. Assign Timekeeper – G. Utgard

B. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

2. Minutes – April 20, 2004, meeting minutes - review for acceptance

The minutes of the April 20, 2004, meeting were reviewed

Motion: To accept the minutes of the April 20, 2004, meeting. (Utgard; Coleman - motion carries).

Staff:

D. White reported that Becky Killem is working part-time at Maine EMS this summer. Becky is a summer employee at the Department of Public Safety and a student at Northeastern University.

The Maine EMS move is scheduled for mid-June to the new location at 500 Civic Center Drive in Augusta.

A concern was brought forth about updated minutes and information being posted on the Maine EMS web. D. White will pass the information along to J. Bradshaw.

3. Old Business

A. Paramedic Exam

Work continues by staff in developing the Request for Information (RFI) regarding a new Paramedic written exam.

B. Student Handbook

No change in status. D. White suggested that this may be a good project for B. Killem to take on. Much of the work will be compiling the various information concerning education, testing and licensing.

C. EMT-B Practical – Data Gathering

The Committee reviewed that data gathered about the EMT-Basic practical exam. The 100 practical exams sampled show an overall pass rate of 94%, a fail rate of 6% and a retest rate of 21%. Discussion ensued about the statistics and the value of a separate state practical exam.

The consensus of the committee is that the EMT-B practical exam is a useful tool to help establish minimum skills competency of those persons seeking licensure as an EMT-Basic in the state of Maine and that it be retained as a requirement for EMT-B licensure.

Further discussion led to the idea of establishing a Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement process for the practical exam in order to review and improve each skill station. It was decided to begin with the spinal station as this station was identified from the practical exam study as the one requiring the most retests.

Regions will be requested to forward all spinal skill sheets (First Responder & all EMT levels) completed at practical exams to Maine EMS for review by the committee.

During each cycle of testing, the committee will review a different practical skill station and results.

D. Exam Considerations for Proposed Airway Module – Initial Discussion

Staff informed the committee that the Medical Direction and Practices Board (MDPB) had developed new protocols for EMS airway management that includes such devices as the Laryngeal-Mask Airway (LMA). A curriculum has yet to be developed, but once completed will need review by the Exam committee to determine what type of evaluation process is required.

4. New Business - None

5. Next Meeting

A. Set Agenda - Next agenda to include:

- 1. Paramedic Exam**
- 2. Practical Exam Data**

B. Set Date and Time - – Given the uncertainty of the Maine EMS move to its new offices, staff will consult with the chair to determine if a June meeting will be held. June 15, 2004 is the next scheduled meeting date.

6. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Drexell White